

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are in the application.

35 U.S.C. 103(c) states:

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

The above statute applies to the present continuation application.

The priority date of this application is September 10, 1999. Harkins (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,395) was patented on November 21, 2000. Harkins cannot qualify as prior art under subsections (a) or (b) of 35 U.S.C. 102 because Harkins was not patented before the priority date of the present application. Therefore, Harkins could only allegedly qualify as prior art under subsection (e) of 35 U.S.C. 102. At the time the claimed invention of the present application was made, both Harkins and the claimed invention were owned or subject to an obligation of assignment to Cisco Technology, Inc. Therefore, under 35 U.S.C. 103(c), Harkins cannot preclude patentability of the present application under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Consequently, all of the claims are patentable over Harkins, taken individually.

Furthermore, because Harkins cannot preclude patentability of the present application under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), all of the claims are patentable over Harkins in view of Aziz (U.S. Patent No. 5,633,933).

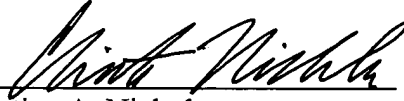
For at least the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is solicited.

The Examiner may contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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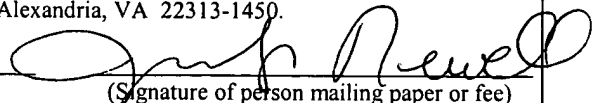
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Jennifer Newell

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